



## Special Interest Articles:

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- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone!

What a strange winter; I had some cold and snow around my place during deer hunting season and then it just stayed mild all winter long. Just when I thought spring was going to start, we went into the deep freeze for an extended time, that was brutal. Hard to really complain here in Minnesota though when the winter was so mild with both the temperature and the snow accumulation. After that deep freeze it felt clear to me that spring was indeed going to start and I for one am very ready. It has been nice hearing some birds I

have not heard for a while and feeling some warmth from the sun when it chooses to peak out at us.

With the warmth of spring comes all the fun and excitement of buttons being dropped, calves being born and watching in amazement the bulls growing new antler. It sure is fun to watch the bulls to see if there are any pleasant surprises with a special eye on the 2-year-olds since this is the first year in my opinion when you can really see their value and potential. I wish all of you the best of luck and hope your herds all perform the way you are hoping for.

Hope all of you and your loved ones are doing well. I am really disappointed we have not been able to get together and see each other in person. With any luck this coming summer will bring us closer to some normal activities, but I guess all we can do is wait and see. Take care and give me a call if you have a question, comment, or just want to talk elk.

Mark

## *Make Plans to Attend!* **2021 MnEBA Summer Picnic** **DATE - TBD**

*Hosted By*

**Stony Brook Elk Farm – Jerry & Linda Campbell**  
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**LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON**

A Noon meal is being planned followed by the MnEBA summer membership meeting and farm tour.

**More details coming soon....**

**MnEBA News** is a bimonthly publication of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. It is mailed out on the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Deadline for information, articles, and advertisements is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

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Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents a unified voice that strengthens the Elk farming industry in Minnesota by creating awareness about Elk production and promotion and consumption of Elk products.

## THANK YOU to All Who Contributed to MnEBA's Special 2021 Funding Request

In mid-January, MnEBA members received a request along with your dues statement, to make a special donation to MnEBA to help raise those extra fundraising dollars generated at the MnEBA Annual Conference for a year that we were not able to get together in person due to Covid-19.

Special incentives were offered at specific donation levels:

**GOLD \$500** – anyone donating \$500 would be listed as a Gold donor in the next newsletter and be eligible to win a Henry Lever Action Blued Single Shot 45-70 Cal Rifle (*this rifle was donated by Lance & Brenda Hartkopf*)

**SILVER \$250** – anyone donating \$250 would be listed as a Silver donor in the next newsletter and be eligible to win a RIA Imports Tradition .410 Ga. Shotgun

**BRONZE \$100** – anyone donating \$100 would be listed as a Bronze donor in the next newsletter

Many members have stepped up to the call to date! They include:

#### GOLD

Jim & Eileen Byrne	Paul & Lynn Hueg
Mark & Michelle Lucas	Dan & Audrey Mueller
Perry & Sandy Olson	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin

#### SILVER

Tony & Patty Beckel	Big Gain (Joel Wacholz)
Farm Bureau (Wade Scott)	John & Shirley Fredrickson
Bruce Krueger	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
Gary & Dave Smith	Kraig & Jenny Wurst
Ted & Sheila Mehrkens	Roger & Saichon Nietfeld
Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	

#### BRONZE

Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Rick & Laurie Hafstad
Steve Krage	Ray & Jean Matejcek
Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Bryce Lubinski
Dennis & Kate Suelflow	

#### Winners of the February 27 drawing were:

Tony Beckel - RIA Imports Tradition .410ga Shotgun  
Perry Olson - Henry Lever Action Blued Single Shot 45-70 Cal Rifle

Don & Joyce Kaplan also donated a 7-night stay for 2-4 people at their casa in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. This vacation destination was put out for sealed bids and the winning bid announced at the February 27 membership meeting. Greg Lubinski was the high bidder at \$802.77.

MnEBA sends a heartfelt thank you to the Hartkopfs' and Kaplans' for their donations, the Lubinskis' for purchasing the Zihua trip and everyone who made the special monetary donations to help with this great fundraising effort. Monetary donations are still being accepted for anyone who has not yet participated. Thank you to all for your consideration and efforts!!

## Membership Meeting Minutes

### Membership Meeting Minutes February 27, 2021

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 2021 Annual Meeting on February 27, 2021 virtually via Zoom. President Mark Luedtke called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. There were a total of 26 attendees throughout the meeting.

President Luedtke welcomed everyone to the call. He then called for additions or corrections to the January 11, 2020 membership meeting minutes. Perry Olson moved to accept the report as written, Jim Byrne seconded, motion carried.

Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report. It was an unusual year for the budget because of Covid-19. Lower lobbyist fees due to the government shutdown in March, stoppage of all activities, a reduction in Minnesota Grown membership fees and a normal fundraising effort all contributed to a net income of \$8,438.84. The December 31, 2020 checkbook balance was \$29,492.27. Jim Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report, Scott Salonek seconded, motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Government Relations:** Tony Kwilas reported that Minnesota still has the only split House/Senate legislature in the nation. The big focus this legislative session will be on Covid-19 related issues, the budget and the Governor's proposed higher taxes and fees. While there are several bills referencing farmed cervidae, the ones that have received a hearing to date include a bill replacing one BAH board member with a Tribal member and a second bill to increase the number of BAH board members to nine. In the House, there is a bill that would allow a licensed hunter to keep an escaped farmed cervid, but Kwilas noted there is limited licensed elk hunting for primarily northwest Minnesota only. The Senate removed that provision in the companion bill. While the first deadline to hear bills ends on March 12, these topics will likely be included in budget bills moving forward.

There was concern about a Tribal member replacing a current member on the BAH Board. The recommendation from the membership was that if a Tribal member was to be included, that they be added in the advisory capacity like other state agencies such as the Minnesota DNR, Minnesota Department of Health and the University of Minnesota.

**Fundraising Raffle:** Hartkopf reported there were 754 calendars sold in the 2021 MnEBA Gun Raffle. Brian Wagner was the high seller with 165 calendars sold, followed by Marlen Schmitz with 70 sold, Greg Lubinski with 66, Wade Schimmelpfennig with 42 sold, Pat Prodzinski with 41 and Ken Arnzen and Paul Hartkopf with 35 sold. There were 44 names put in the hat for the incentive gun drawing and Pat Prodzinski was the lucky winner.

Hartkopf reported an amazing response from the membership for the special monetary donation request due to not being able to hold an in-person meeting and annual fundraiser. After reporting all donors of prizes and those that made monetary donations at the Gold, Silver and Bronze levels to date, the drawing for incentive prizes was held. Tony Beckel won the drawing for the Silver level and Perry Olson for the Gold level.

**Promotions:** Hartkopf reported there was not a lot to report about promotions since all activities were shut down since Covid-19. She did encourage members to make recommendations to board members or the office for any new ideas for promotional items or activities MnEBA could pursue.

**State Fair:** Greg Lubinski reported that State Fair officials sent a letter to all vendors stating they are hoping for an in-person event this year, but they don't know the details as of yet. Lubinski reported that he will not be able to help staff the booth weekdays this year and that MnEBA will need more volunteers to fill the schedule.

### NAEBA

North Central representative Bill Knutson reported the NAEBA March Mingle takes place on March 12-13 in Salt Lake City, UT and the summer convention will be held in Mankato, MN on July 29-31. He encouraged all MnEBA members to attend the summer convention since it will be in Minnesota. Bill reported that NAEBA's overall membership numbers are stable, but that the North Central region numbers have been declining. He reported that his board term is expiring this summer and encouraged members to think of a new representative moving forward. NAEBA's other North Central representative, Scott Salonek concurred with comments made by Bill.

There was much discussion on previously discussed items such as:

1. Is there a way people can attend the NAEBA Convention in Mankato without paying the regular registration price?
2. Can the state association create a fundraising effort in conjunction with the NAEBA convention?
3. Can MnEBA sell elk-related items on the MnEBA web site for fundraising purposes?
4. Can MnEBA consider selling more guns on the gun raffle calendar to create more interest by buyers?

There was good discussion on all the above items amongst participants on the call.

### OLD BUSINESS

Tony Beckel spoke about the 2020 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt and that this year's hunt was a good one. The recipient was able to shoot out of a stand and his wife also took the opportunity to harvest her first ever elk. The bull for this year's hunt was donated and transported to Baudette by Perry Olson. It was reported that MnEBA has a nomination for the 2021 hunt recipient and that members may submit additional nominations.

Hartkopf reported that Zoe Pohlman was the recipient of the 2020 MnEBA Scholarship. Zoe is a student at South Dakota State University majoring in marketing and communications and was very active in 4-H and FFA in high school. Hartkopf also shared a member request that MnEBA consider opening up the scholarship opportunity not only to a son/daughter or grandson/granddaughter of MnEBA active and lifetime members, but that it be opened up to other relatives as well. There was good discussion by the membership. It was recommended that children/grandchildren receive a higher point system, but that animal health/ag majors carry weight just under that. Byrne asked that whatever the board decided, they give specific direction to the committee on how to score applications.

Mark Luedtke reported the 2020 USAHA Annual Meeting was a virtual Zoom meeting which made it more challenging to collaborate and network. There was one resolution by the farmed cervid industry pertaining to live animal testing, but this was squashed by committee members, notably Minnesota's BAH representative Dr. Linda Glaser. Industry felt they planted some good seeds of thought regarding live animal testing for future discussion. Luedtke also reported that a move to five years between whole herd TB testing dates was not readily received because USDA says there is not enough data.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held to fill open expiring terms for Greg Lubinski and Perry Olson. Greg Lubinski had already agreed to be on the 2021 ballot. Luedtke asked for nominations from the floor for the remaining open position. Tony Beckel and Scott Salonek were nominated, however both declined. Jim Byrne nominated Lance Hartkopf who accepted the nomination. Kraig Wurst seconded. Mark Lucas moved to close nominations and accept a unanimous ballot. Jim Byrne seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf thanked all members who took part in last week's farmed cervidae listening session regarding BAH Rulemaking for farmed cervidae and reported that the subsequent draft version of the Rules contained improved provisions such as removing the 10' fence height requirement for newly formed farmed deer herds, the removal of declaring a farm quarantined based on clinical signs of CWD, the removal of the arbitrary "at least" in front of the 15 mile circle for newly declared farmed cervidae management zones and the increase from 14 days to 60 days for the amount of time allotted to put up exclusionary fencing in the case of a wild whitetail being discovered within a certain radius of your farm. Brian Wagner also commended members for their participation and comments during last week's listening session.

Hartkopf thanked the legislative committee made up of Jim Byrne and Dr. Paul Anderson for their expertise and guidance in developing comments over these many months regarding proposed Rule drafts. They have been outstanding in their effort, time, guidance and leadership.

Byrne followed up with comments on moving forward after the Rules go out for comment and specifically member's opportunities to comment and make the case for desired changes before the judge advocate.

There were a lot of comments made by the membership pertaining to the currently proposed rules. Salonek questioned the legality of declaring quarantines without presence of disease in a farmed cervidae herd and Beckel shared concerns about putting up exclusionary fencing in the heart of winter. There was a lot of support for keeping the current 180 day provision for putting up exclusionary fencing for many reasons. Zebarth reported that Wisconsin, along with several other states, have a 10-mile radius around a CWD positive cervid in the wild.

Perry Olson, along with other members on the meeting, expressed concern with BAH farmed

cervidae staff members lack of competence and professionalism. Members were asked to document these issues.

Regarding future meeting dates, Hartkopf reported that Jerry & Linda Campbell have agreed to host the MnEBA Summer Meeting in July. The exact date has not been decided, but members should watch future communications for the meeting date. The 2022 MnEBA Membership Meeting is scheduled for January 7-8, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West Hotel in Plymouth, MN where it is hoped that we can have a close to normal event again.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Perry Olson suggested maybe MnEBA could host a private event at a nearby elk farm for the NAEBA convention this summer.

President Luedtke brought attention to the current elk inventory/membership numbers at the bottom of the agenda, noting the decrease in number of elk producers throughout the state over the past several years. Minnesota used to be held up as an example of how to address CWD issues, but that notoriety has gone away.

Perry Olson compared Minnesota’s political situation regarding farmed cervidae to that of Missouri. When they split regulations for different species, things got better for elk producers. He expressed that Minnesota deer breeders are not interested in joining forces with Minnesota elk producers despite recent attempts by MnEBA.

Tony Beckel expressed the desire for MnEBA to continue to pursue and support live animal testing. Glen Zebarth reported that a number of labs are working to validate and reduce cost on RT-QulC live animal test technology and that we are probably 2-3 years away from that technology being available. However that test will not eliminate environmental contamination, birds or other animals from transporting prions, etc. There are many states with no cervid farming that still have CWD.

No other business was brought forth. Byrne moved to adjourn the meeting, Lance Hartkopf seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



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## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes January 7, 2021

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Thursday January 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst, Perry Olson and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Guests included Jim Byrne, Paul Anderson and Tony Kwilas. Luedtke called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The main topic for discussion was preparing the board for a January 11, 2021 meeting with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) regarding MnEBA's proposed BAH Rule changes dated 12/16/20. Hartkopf went through highlighted language which were top priority items as designated by the legislative committee, seeking feedback and discussion from the Board. All agreed to present our version to BAH and work to have a good back and forth dialog to understand Dr. Glaser's position on MnEBA's proposed changes. Hartkopf was asked to email the entire 12/16/20 version and also email specific areas concerning missed CWD test, intrastate movement and management zone language to BAH. Jim, Paul and Tony then left the call.

Because MnEBA was unable to have an annual meeting in person this year and fundraising opportunities were lost, Board worked to determine final details on asking the membership to make a special monetary donation this year. Decision was made to include three donation levels, Bronze (\$100), Silver (\$250) and Gold (\$500). Everyone who donates to be recognized for their donation in the January/February/March 2021 newsletter unless otherwise requested. Anyone donating at the Silver level would be eligible to win a RIA Imports Tradition .410 Ga. Shotgun. Anyone donating at the Gold level would be eligible to win a Henry rifle. Hartkopf to secure a Henry rifle pending board approval. Drawing for both guns to be held during the MnEBA Virtual Annual Meeting on February 27, 2021. Hartkopf also reported that Don & Joyce Kaplan agreed to donate a seven night stay at their casa in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. They are working to decide when the best dates would be to offer the trip.

Hartkopf and Wagner are working to prepare final details to broadcast the MnEBA Gun Calendar raffle drawing on Facebook Live on January 9 at 8:00 p.m. Luedtke confirmed he and his family were attending and Lubinski confirmed he and Paul Hueg would also be in attendance. Hartkopf reported there were a few

calendars which had been returned and were not yet redistributed, but that she anticipated another strong year for sales.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

### Board Meeting Minutes December 21, 2020

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Monday December 21, 2020 at 1 p.m. Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Luedtke called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Hartkopf reported that the office had run out of calendars, but then checked with members who had calendars that were yet unsold and now the office has 75 calendars to redistribute. Calendars sold to the general public via the MnEBA web site now total 39. The General Store in Osakis is also selling calendars for MnEBA. She also reported the required paperwork to change the location of the drawing has been filed with the Minnesota Gambling Control Board and a revised permit is expected soon. Director Perry Olson joined the meeting during this discussion. Board discussed how to video broadcast the drawing so members could view the drawing. Decision was made to videotape the drawing live via Facebook Live on the MnEBA Facebook page.

Discussed the current meeting restriction orders, closure of bars/restaurants and the postponed MnEBA Annual Conference. Olson moved to move to a virtual meeting format with no seminars on February 27. Lubinski seconded, motion carried. After much discussion, starting time to be 9:00 a.m. Also discussed ideas for fundraising such as making items available for sealed bids or asking for an extra monetary donation for 2021 only with certain donor levels being eligible for specific prize drawings. Board to think about ideas and make final decisions at the next scheduled meeting. Hartkopf reported there have been no board nominations made for the two expiring board terms. Lubinski volunteered to run for a new term. Olson preferred not to run again.

Hartkopf updated the board on BAH pushing back the deadline on the 4<sup>th</sup> Rule version. The next Advisory meeting has not yet been scheduled. Board thought it would be a good idea to have the MnEBA legislative committee chair and board meet directly with BAH to discuss what changes MnEBA would like to see made to the Rule. Hartkopf to schedule meeting with BAH the first week of January and in the meantime, develop an agenda and talking points. Luedtke went through a document previously distributed to the board discussing ongoing frustrations with BAH. Decision was made to

document dissatisfactory issues moving forward for future possible actions.

Wagner asked that he be made aware of who was planning to attend the raffle drawing on January 9<sup>th</sup> so he could prepare accordingly. Luedtke, Lubinski and Hartkopf plan to attend to supervise and videotape the drawing.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## MnEBA Joins Industry Letter to Request USDA Reform

MnEBA recently joined over 12 other associations asking the USAHA administrator to reform its USDA Chronic Wasting Disease policy along with other ongoing concerns with current programs.

This effort was led by the Texas Deer Association. The letter noted frustration with the limited amount of relief in regulatory issues and lack of agency inclusion of the latest scientific tools such as live animal testing to assist producers in surveillance and management of CWD. Frustration with no formal action on extending the cervid TB herd accreditation intervals from three to five years was addressed in the letter as well.

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## News Release

For Immediate Release: February 22, 2021

Contact: Michael Crusan, Communications Director, 651-201-6815 or michael.crusan@state.mn.us

### Nine More Deer Added to Tally of CWD Positive Whitetails at Houston County farm

Test results following the late-January depopulation of a Houston County white-tailed deer farm confirm nine additional cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD). Results from the National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed the detection of CWD in five does and four bucks. The farm first detected CWD in a 2½-year-old white-tailed deer in October 2020.

“This herd was in good standing in our farmed cervid program and was double-fenced since 2017,” said Board Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. “It’s an example of how elusive CWD can be to detect and control quickly before it infects multiple animals within a herd. Ten infected animals despite an owner following all regulations highlights why we need the research to catch up to the disease.”

A total of 46 white-tailed deer were depopulated on January 26 and all were sampled for CWD. The Houston County farm is not allowed to have any deer or elk for five years. Owners must maintain fencing to prevent wild deer from accessing empty pens. Biohazard signs will be posted on the fencing and must be maintained for the entire five-year fallow period.

CWD is a disease of the deer and elk family caused by prions, which can damage brain and nerve tissue. The disease is most likely transmitted when infected deer and elk shed prions in saliva, feces, urine, and other fluids or tissues. CWD is not known to naturally occur in other animals. The disease is fatal in deer and elk, and there are no known treatments or vaccines. Consuming meat from a CWD positive animal is not advised.

### BAH Recap on the 2020 Farmed Cervidae Program

As Presented to State Legislators in February 2021

This fiscal year the farmed Cervidae program focused on improving compliance. Much of our work began in the second half of last fiscal year with procedures being fully implemented this fiscal year. Program managers created guidelines for progressive enforcement actions for field staff to follow when producers fail inspections and are given a Notice of Violation. This included the development of protocols for issuing written Notices of Violation and Correction Orders with a specified deadline for corrective actions, and assessment of civil penalties for producers who fail to comply by the set deadline. The Board also drafted a policy for referring debt to the Department of Revenue when producers fail to remit inspection fees or civil penalties to the Board.

Five herd registrations were cancelled for long-term non-compliance with Board regulations this fiscal year, requiring three herd owners to disperse their herds through sale or harvest of their animals. Two herd owners entered into agreements with the Board in which they could come into compliance with Board regulations and requirements and have their herd registration reinstated. The goal of these actions is to follow through with non-compliant cervid

producers so they don't continue to operate outside of the Board's regulations. Refer to the section of this report titled 'Compliance' for additional information.

Starting January 1, 2020, the Board requires all individuals that collect tissues from Minnesota farmed cervids for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing to be authorized by the Board. All individuals must attend a classroom training and submit samples from two farmed cervids to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory with an accurately completed submission form and get successful test results on the samples to be authorized. Those individuals that have not collected both obex and lymph node tissues previously from farmed cervids must schedule a demonstration of these procedures by our field staff before they collect their own samples. All Board authorized sample collectors are issued a collector number which verifies their authorized status to the laboratory when they submit samples for CWD testing. The goal of authorizing sample collectors is to increase the quality of the samples collected and improve the success rate of CWD surveillance in farmed cervids in Minnesota.

Two small white-tailed deer farmed cervid herds were found infected with chronic wasting disease (CWD) this fiscal year; one in December 2019 and one in January 2020. The first herd identified in Douglas County was linked to the second herd in Pine County as it had purchased the deer in its herd from the Pine County herd owner. Both herds were depopulated and six CWD infected animals were found in the 11 animals in these herds. Both sites will be monitored, and the fences maintained for five years to prevent access to the herd enclosures by wild deer.

### Species Breakdown by Animals:

Breed	Total Animals	Number of Herds
White-tailed Deer	4,279	195
Elk	3,648	92
Red Deer	145	8
Reindeer	103	10
Fallow Deer	52	9
Muntjac	28	7
Sika Deer	24	5
Pere David's Deer	5	1
Moose	4	1
Caribou	3	2
Mule Deer	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,293</b>	<b>291</b>

*The herd count totals more than 291 because some herds have multiple species in their herd and the herd is counted for each species in the herd.*

### Herd Usages:

Herd Usage	Total Herds
Breeding	79
Exhibition/Competition	16
Hobbyist	136
Hunting Preserve Site	15
Meat Production	62
Other Animal Products	10
Trophy/Hunting Animal Sales Sites	93
Unknown	1
Urine Production	6
Velvet Antler Production	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>296</b>

*A business or commercial operation has more than one usage so this total adds up to more herds.*



## 2020 CWD testing shows low prevalence of disease in areas tested

DNR News Release – February 1, 2021

Testing results from Minnesota's 2020 hunting season and early 2021 special hunts confirmed chronic wasting disease in 22 wild deer, all within current disease management zones, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

In total, 7,682 samples were tested from hunter-harvested deer or opportunistic samples (deer killed by vehicles, reported sick or found dead). Nineteen of the positives were from deer in the southeast management zone and three were from the south metro management zone.

CWD was not detected in the north-central disease management zone, the southeast control zone, or the surveillance areas put in place for the 2020 hunting season. The surveillance areas added in 2020 were in east-central and west-central Minnesota, as well as a south metro surveillance area that surrounds the south metro management zone.

"Though CWD is detected in Minnesota's wild deer, our recent test results show that the disease prevalence remains relatively low," said Erik Hildebrand, DNR wildlife health specialist.

"Keeping deer healthy is our priority, and we continue to take aggressive action in areas where the disease has been detected in wild deer and monitor for the disease in areas where there are elevated risks for CWD."

Some test results from the year's management activities and any deer reported sick or dead are still pending; results will be updated on the DNR's CWD webpage as they become available.

The DNR monitors CWD by testing wild deer. When the disease is detected in either captive or wild deer, the DNR establishes surveillance areas and tests wild deer for at least three years after the detection. This is because it can take 1½ to 3 years before a deer shows clinical symptoms. If three consecutive years of test results fail to confirm CWD, and an adequate number of deer are sampled, the DNR will end surveillance in an area. Details are in the DNR's CWD response plan.

In fall 2020, the DNR shifted to voluntary self-service sampling to facilitate social-distancing measures at sampling stations during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the shift, the DNR set sampling goals based on the best available science that gives the agency confidence about disease prevalence in an area. While the majority of areas received enough samples to meet sampling goals and give confidence about disease detections, some surveillance areas did not.

The DNR will continue sampling for disease in these areas to enhance confidence about disease detection.

"We appreciate all those who participated in sampling this year. Each deer tested gives valuable information that contributes to our understanding of the disease's prevalence and geographic distribution in our herd," Hildebrand said.

### Current management actions

Where CWD has been detected in wild deer, the DNR uses a three-pronged approach to limit the spread of the disease and keep Minnesota's wild deer population healthy: reducing deer densities, restricting deer feeding and attractants, and limiting deer carcass movement.

This year, in areas where CWD-positive deer were detected, the DNR held two special hunts after the firearms hunting season and also provided landowners within a 3-mile radius of positive deer with shooting permits to further reduce deer densities.

From February through March, the DNR will work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services to complete targeted culling in focused areas where CWD has been detected in wild deer. Venison from these deer that do not test positive for CWD will be donated through the Share the Harvest program. More information about the program is available on the DNR website.

Final CWD test results will influence how the DNR manages the disease going forward and determines the 2021 hunting regulations, which will be released in August.

**Additional CWD information**

Keeping Minnesota’s wild deer population healthy remains the goal of the DNR’s response to chronic wasting disease. Since CWD was first detected in Minnesota in 2002, the DNR has tested more than 90,000 wild deer in the state. To date, 110 wild deer have tested positive for CWD in Minnesota. CWD test results, including locations of confirmed positive test results and statistics, are available on the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/cwdcheck](http://mndnr.gov/cwdcheck).

As part of its CWD response plan, the DNR monitors and manages for CWD in disease management zones around areas where the disease has been detected in wild deer. The CWD management zones are located in the southeast, north-central and south metro areas of Minnesota. The DNR monitors for the disease in surveillance areas where CWD has been found in captive deer farms or which are adjacent to other areas of known risk located in the east-central, west-central and south metro areas of Minnesota.

CWD is always fatal and affects the deer family, which includes deer, elk and moose. There is no vaccine or treatment for this disease.

For more information on chronic wasting disease, including maps of CWD surveillance areas, frequently asked questions and hunter information, visit [mndnr.gov/cwd](http://mndnr.gov/cwd).

**Board Blog** by Greg Lubinski, MnEBA Director



Hi all,

With the recent cold snap, I hope you all had waterers that did not freeze. I for one had one waterer that had the pipe freeze, but it only took 10 minutes to thaw out. That was when it was -27 below and a 10 mile per hour wind. The plus part was I had two elk heifers licking AND pulling on my ears. I must have tasted good!! Well that ear wax problem is gone!!

Day two. Since I am working full time at Pace Dairy during days, I have to do waterer checks at night. Well I had a waterer running over (O MY GOD!!). Only -25 below but no wind, at least the heater was up so high the water was hot; my hands did not freeze just cooked. Dinner is served! Bring your own carrots. At least I have a new float and valve in the waterer.

Hope you all stay warm and healthy. Greg Lubinski (A K A cooked hands)

*Spring Coulee Velvet Capsules*



Bill & Karen Knutson  
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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*Thank you for your support!*

## MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a great elk stew recipe that is full of delicious vegetables and spices for great flavor and makes enough to feed a crowd or freeze for a future busy day!

### Crockpot Elk Stew

2 Tbsp. olive oil	6 cloves garlic, sliced
2 lbs. elk steak, cubed	1 tsp. thyme
1 cup beef broth	1 tsp. oregano
2 lbs. red potatoes, cubed	1 tsp. basil
1 large onion, diced	1 tsp. rosemary
½ lb. carrots, diced	2 tsp. salt
1 jalapeno, diced	½ tsp. black pepper
1 bell pepper, diced	2 bay leaves
1 can green beans (15 oz.)	1 cup water
1 can diced tomatoes (15 oz.)	



#### DIRECTIONS

Heat olive oil in large skillet over med-high heat. When oil is hot, add meat. Let meat brown well, stir every 2-3 minutes. Let meat fry for 7-8 minutes. Place meat in crockpot.

Place skillet back over heat and add broth. Stir and scrape the browned bits while bringing the broth to a boil. When it boils, remove from heat and pour broth into the crockpot with the meat.

Add onions, garlic, tomatoes, spices and bay leaves to crockpot. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours. After meat as cooked for two hours, add potatoes, jalapeno, carrots, bell pepper, green beans and water. Continue cooking on high for 5-6 more hours. Remove bay leaves, stir and serve. This stew does not have a lot of liquid in it, you can add more water or broth to reach desired consistency.

***Do you have a favorite elk recipe? Please send a copy of the recipe to the MnEBA office so we can share it with others!***



## MnEBA Scholarship Thank You



*Dear MnEBA,*

*Thank you so much for the 2020 MnEBA Scholarship I received.*

*I am currently a sophomore at South Dakota State University majoring in consumer affairs. I hope to one day go into sales or marketing.*

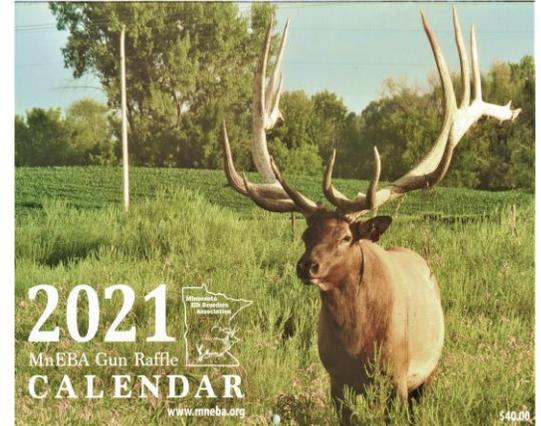
*I would not be who I am today if it weren't for my agriculture background.*

*Thanks again,  
Zoe Pohlman*

## 2021 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Recap

### A Great Selling Season!

Having 2021 calendar sales begin and end during Covid-19, no one knew how this year's sales would compare to previous years. But once again, members came through to have a fantastic number of calendars sold – 754 calendars altogether! The office ran out of calendars in early December and was able to get unsold calendars back to keep them circulated. Another interesting aspect of sales this year was that 51 calendars were sold from the web site, and 26 calendars were sold at The General Store where MnEBA purchases the guns. This is by far the most calendars sold independent of member sales and likely reflects shopping in a Covid-19 world. It will be interesting to see how next year's internet sales compare.



### Top Sellers

Brian Wagner continued his streak of amazing sales with 165 calendars sold, which may be the highest number ever sold by any one individual! Next highest in sales was Marlen Schmitz with 70 calendars sold followed closely by Greg Lubinski with 66 sold. Other high sellers were Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig with 42 calendars sold, Pat & Rita Prodzinski with 41 sold, Jerry & Linda Campbell with 37 sold and Ken Arzen and Paul Hartkopf with 35 calendars sold. There were 44 names put into the hat for the special gun incentive drawing for every 10 calendars sold. Pat Prodzinski was drawn out of the hat as the lucky winner of the Winchester Wildcat 22 LR rifle.

### New this Year! The Drawing Took Place Via Facebook Live

Because we could not meet in person due to Covid-19, the decision was made to keep the same drawing date and time but to change the location of the drawing at Black Velvet Elk Ranch in Howard Lake, MN. The drawing was then conducted in real time on Facebook Live. The drawing is still posted on the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Facebook page for anyone still wanting to watch the recording of the drawing.

### Eight Producers Qualified for a FREE 2021 MnEBA Membership!

A total of eight producers qualified for a free 2021 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31, 2020. That list included Ken Arzen, Brian Wagner, Pat Prodzinski, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Paul Hartkopf, Greg Lubinski, Jerry Campbell and Marlen Schmitz. Every sale was important, no matter how many any one individual or couple sold. The group effort was once again amazing with tickets sold by 28 different members. THANK YOU to all!!!

### When Winners are Posted

Monthly winners will be posted every other Wednesday on the MnEBA web site at [www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org).

### What will the 2022 calendar bring...

Feedback from the annual membership meeting was that the board consider adding another gun to increase interest in the calendar. There was also the question if the drawing would be on Facebook Live again. No firm direction on that was given. If you have any suggestions, please contact a board member or the office. Sponsorship opportunities for the 2022 calendar will be coming out soon!



*Hailie Luedtke draws another winner while Brian Wagner keeps the numbers mixed up and President Luedtke keeps track of the numbers drawn.*

## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### Stay Involved in Rulemaking and Spring Reminders

#### Rulemaking

The Minnesota farmed elk industry had an opportunity last week to review the proposed revised Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Rules during two listening sessions. The new draft version that came out this week was improved with several areas of concern modified. For those members who took part, it was worth your time to become involved in making your voice heard. The official notice of intent to adopt rules is said to come out in the spring of 2021 which will be soon. It will be important to stay involved in making your comments as there will be a lot of groups making comments that are not in alignment with the industry. Make sure to stay involved in the process when called upon.

#### RFID Tags to be the “Official” Tag of the Future

The federal government is wanting to move to all official tags being RFID tags by January 1, 2023. There have been numerous lawsuits and delays over this issue. Keep in the back of your mind, that you may need to be moving to the use of RFID tags as your official ID for interstate movement in your animals. Stay tuned on that one.

#### Spring Reminders

We are coming up to the time of year where it's important to make sure to be observing the condition of your cows in preparation for calving and also to vaccinate your cows to pass on immunity to the calves if past history has indicated a problem with scours.

- If cows are looking too fat, there's still time to get them in better body condition prior to calving by feeding more grass hay and/or straw along with mineral.
- If you have had a scour problem in your calves in the past along with a medical diagnosis of what caused the illness, make sure to vaccinate your cows for that specific problem. It's important to be specific with your choice of vaccination, make sure you know what you're trying to prevent.

Some places have more scours problems than others. It seems to be worse for those running higher number of animals. The most important thing is to get a diagnosis and be specific in vaccinating for the problem you have.

## Board of Animal Health Reviewing MN Farmed Cervid Rules Update

The MnEBA Legislative Committee and Board continue to offer input to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) during its ongoing Rulemaking draft process that has been going on since this past August. In addition, the farmed cervid industry had the chance to hear directly from BAH and make their own comments on the eighth draft in two listening sessions, one on February 16 and one on February 19. The ninth draft version that came out after that meeting had several updates that were in direct correlation to comments made by the industry during these listening sessions. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to listen in and/or comment directly to the BAH during these listening sessions, your involvement made a difference!

An official Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules is expected in late April. This document will be the culmination from numerous stakeholder meetings, listening sessions and comments from the general public. Everyone will once again have an opportunity to comment on the published version when it is officially filed. MnEBA will notify the membership of any areas of concern and what members may want to comment on.

*Thank you to everyone who took the time to listen in and/or comment directly to the BAH during these listening sessions, your involvement made a difference!*

To see all previous draft versions of the Rule, meeting minutes from advisory committee meetings, and minutes from farmed cervidae stakeholder meetings, go to <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/public-rule-making/>.

# PPP Loans Still Available for Small Businesses

## Small Businesses Include Farmers/Ranchers!

We are currently in the heart of tax season in the midst of a pandemic. This is a new world for everyone and definitely a learning curve for every level of business and government.

In January of 2021, the Paycheck Protection Program First Draw PPP Loan program was reopened to continue to help small businesses survive the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The term "small business" also includes farmers and ranchers. The current program is now running through March 31, 2021 or whenever funds run out, whichever occurs first, so the time to act is now.

If you file a Schedule F for your farm or ranch, it's worth your time to check with your tax preparer and/or local financial institution to see if you qualify and then decide if you want to apply. This loan is completely forgivable for eligible expenses such as employee payroll and also interest payments on mortgages or personal property (machinery/equipment), rent or leases (land & machinery/equipment), utilities, covered operating expenses, such as accounting, inventory, etc., supplier costs (feed), or any such expenses that would have been included on the Schedule F that was used for the loan calculation.

Check out further information at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

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## Committee Reports

### Legislative Update

Much work continues on forming Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) for ongoing drafts of the revised BAH Farmed Cervid Rules. They are on the ninth draft of the document and will soon seek to craft a final draft to be the document they officially file notice of intent to adopt. We continue to focus on overreach on several issues and most especially on the sections of the Rule that put producers instantly out of business.

While this work is ongoing, so is the legislative session. As our lobbyist reported at the recent membership meeting, there are several bills that have been introduced, but just a few that have received a hearing. We expect that as of this writing, there will be a big push in the first two weeks of March to introduce additional bills and seek a hearing before the first March 12 deadline for new bill introductions.

A main focus to date has been bills to change the make-up of and/or increase the Board of Animal Board of Directors. HF 1137 would seek to increase the board from five to nine members with two at-large members and seven regional members. HF 138 would add one Tribal member to the board.

HF 1727 has recently emerged as a bill to establish additional fencing requirements, create moratoriums on possessing white tail deer in Minnesota and transferring oversight of the farmed cervid industry from the Board of Animal Health to the DNR. It has not yet had a hearing in the House and there is no Senate companion bill as of this writing. MnEBA will continue to monitor and aggressively fight this and all bills that would have a negative impact on the farmed cervid industry.

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS	
<b>Annual Conference</b>	Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
<b>Fundraising</b>	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
<b>Government Relations</b>	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505 Dr. Paul Anderson (952) 212-6109
<b>Health</b>	OPEN
<b>Scholarship</b>	Eileen Byrne (507) 358-3063 Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
<b>State Fair</b>	Greg Lubinski (507) 273-0525 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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OFFICE HOURS  
8:30 -11:30 a.m.  
Mondays, Tuesdays &  
Thursdays

## Calendar of Events

**March 12-13, 2021** – NAEBA March Mingle, Hampton Inn Salt Lake City Airport, Salt Lake City, UT

**July 29-31, 2021** – NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, Mankato, MN

**August 26-September 6, 2021** – Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** Wapiti Labs is buying hard antler. Best prices on 2" diameter and larger. Call 651-237-4051 for more information.

**Wanted:** Any and all elk meat animals, trophy bulls, breeding stock or whole herds. Brian Wagner, 612-366-5078.

**Services Offered:** Outback Fence & Fabrication is here for all your fencing needs. We specialize in - Exclusion Fencing, Trellis Fencing, Chain Link Fencing, Woven Wire Fencing, Steel and Wood Post Fencing. We fabricate fences and enclosures for applications like Deer, Elk, Bison, Livestock (cattle, horses, goats, sheep, etc.). We are also here for your fabrication needs specializing in - Livestock Equipment (feeders, bunks, cattle gates, buckets, etc.), Repair and Modification (trailers, wagons, tractors, machinery, etc.), Custom Entry and Enclosure Gates, In Shop or On-Site Equipment and Machinery Repair Services. Contact us today with questions or an estimate on your project at 507-951-7632 or [outbackfence@hotmail.com](mailto:outbackfence@hotmail.com). Book for your fencing needs and projects for 2021 now! Visit our website at [www.outbackMN.com](http://www.outbackMN.com).

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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